

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Original) A belt module for use with a headed pivot rod, the belt module, comprising: a first plurality of link ends disposed in a direction of belt travel, the first link ends having first pivot rod openings disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel; a second plurality of link ends extending in a direction opposite to the first plurality of link ends, the second link ends being offset from the first link ends such that adjacently positioned belt modules are capable of intercalating so that the first link ends of one belt module fit into spaces defined between the second plurality of link ends of an adjacent belt module, the second link ends having second pivot rod openings disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel; an edge portion having an edge portion pivot rod opening disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, the edge portion pivot rod opening having a diameter larger than a diameter of the first and second pivot rod openings such that the pivot rod can only be removed in one direction, the edge portion pivot rod opening being in registry with the second pivot rod openings, the edge portion having a slot defined therein, the slot intersecting with the pivot rod opening ; and, a blocking member disposed in the slot and capable of moving between a first position and a second position, the blocking member extending into the edge portion pivot rod opening and obstructing the head of the pivot rod in the second position such that the pivot rod is prevented from exiting the edge portion pivot rod opening.
2. (Original) The belt module of Claim 1, wherein the slot in the edge portion is disposed substantially parallel to the direction of belt travel.
3. (Original) The belt module of Claim 1, wherein the blocking member has a detent member.
4. (Original) The belt module of Claim 3, further comprising a detent opening extending to the slot.
5. (Original) The belt module of Claim 4, wherein the detent member is disposed in the detent opening when the blocking member is in the first position.
6. (Original) The belt module of Claim 1, wherein the blocking member has a first portion and a second portion, the second portion being wider than the first portion such that the blocking member has an L-shape.
7. (Original) The belt module of Claim 1, wherein the blocking member has a slot defined therein.

8. (Original) The belt module of Claim 3, wherein the detent member engages with a wall adjacent to the pivot rod opening when the blocking member is in the second position.

9. (Original) A modular belt, comprising: a first belt module comprising a first plurality of link ends disposed in a direction of belt travel, the first link ends having first pivot rod openings disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, a second plurality of link ends extending in a direction opposite to the first plurality of link ends, the second link ends being offset from the first link ends such that adjacently positioned belt modules are capable of intercalating so that the first link ends of one belt module fit into spaces defined between the second plurality of link ends of an adjacent belt module, the second link ends having second pivot rod openings disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, an edge portion having an edge portion pivot rod opening disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, the edge portion pivot rod opening having a diameter larger than a diameter of the first and second pivot rod openings of the first and second link ends, the edge portion pivot rod opening being in registry with the second pivot rod openings, the edge portion having a slot defined therein, the slot intersecting with the edge portion pivot rod opening, and a blocking member disposed in the slot and capable of moving between a first position and a second position, the blocking member extending into the edge portion pivot rod opening in the second position; a second belt module disposed adjacent to the first belt module, the second belt module comprising a first plurality of link ends disposed in a direction of belt travel, the first link ends having first pivot rod openings disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, a second plurality of link ends extending in a direction opposite to the first plurality of link ends, the second link ends being offset from the first link ends such that adjacently positioned belt modules are capable of intercalating so that the first link ends of one belt module fit into spaces defined between the second plurality of link ends of an adjacent belt module, the second link ends having second pivot rod openings disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, an edge portion having an edge portion pivot rod opening disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, the edge portion pivot rod opening having a diameter larger than a diameter of the first pivot rod openings of the first and second link ends, the edge portion pivot rod opening being in registry with the second pivot rod openings, the edge portion having a slot defined therein, the slot intersecting with the edge portion pivot rod opening, and a blocking member disposed in the slot and capable of moving between a first position and a second position, the blocking member extending into the edge portion pivot rod opening in the second position; at least one pivot rod having an enlarged head at a first end, the at least one pivot rod disposed through the edge portion pivot rod opening in the first belt module and disposed through the intercalated first and second pivot rod openings of the first belt module and the second belt module, the enlarged head of the pivot rod being obstructed by the blocking member in its second position such that the pivot rod is prevented from exiting the edge portion pivot rod opening; and, wherein the pivot rod can only be removed in one direction.

10. (Original) The belt module of Claim 9, wherein the slot in the edge portion is disposed substantially parallel to the direction of belt travel.

Amendment and Response to Office Action

11. (Original) The belt module of Claim 9, wherein the blocking member has a detent member.
12. (Original) The belt module of Claim 11, further comprising a detent opening extending to the slot.
13. (Original) The belt module of Claim 12, wherein the detent member is disposed in the detent opening when the blocking member is in the first position.
14. (Original) The belt module of Claim 9, wherein the blocking member has a first portion and a second portion, the second portion being wider than the first portion such that the blocking member has an L-shape.
15. (Original) The belt module of Claim 9, wherein the blocking member has a slot defined therein.
16. (Original) The belt module of Claim 11, wherein the detent member engages with a wall adjacent to the pivot rod opening when the blocking member is in the second position.
17. (Original) A method of configuring a modular belt, comprising: providing a plurality of belt modules having a first plurality of link ends disposed in a direction of belt travel, the first link ends having first pivot rod openings disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, a second plurality of link ends extending in a direction opposite to the first plurality of link ends, the second link ends being offset from the first link ends such that adjacently positioned belt modules are capable of intercalating so that the first link ends of one belt module fit into spaces defined between the second plurality of link ends of an adjacent belt module, the second link ends having second pivot rod openings disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, an edge portion having an edge portion pivot rod opening disposed transverse to the direction of belt travel, the edge portion pivot rod opening having a diameter larger than a diameter of the first and second pivot rod openings of the first and second link ends, the edge portion pivot rod opening being in registry with the second pivot rod openings, the edge portion having a slot defined therein, the slot intersecting with the edge portion pivot rod opening, a blocking member disposed in the slot and capable of moving between a first position and a second position, the blocking member extending into the pivot rod opening in the second position ; placing pivot rods through the pivot rod openings and the first and second pivot rod openings in adjacent belt modules such that the first and second link ends of the adjacent belt modules are intercalated and the adjacent belt modules are interlinked into adjacent hinged rows to form an endless belt capable of articulating about a drive sprocket; and, wherein the pivot rods can only be removed from the intercalated modules in one direction.